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## IDAHO TRAFFIC SAFETY JOURNAL



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# Brian's Blog



Welcome to the Winter edition of Centerline and a new year!

I am discovering that getting information out to all 500+ Idaho instructors is not a simple task. I would love it if everyone had (and used) a computer, checked their email daily, and joined the rest of us in the 21st century, but...that probably won't happen for awhile. But even when we do it the old fashioned way (by mail carrier), we get over 50 "return to sender" letters because of out-dated or incorrect information! So, we'll ask for the fourteen-hundredth time: *could you please go to our website and update your contact information?* This is how we do everything now, and how we contact you, send your license renewals, etc. Joyce and I are doing our best to provide hard-copies of documents and forms to those who absolutely need them (by request only!) while trying to move to a more "paperless" system. Please become more familiar with our website and what we offer for you there, because eventually it'll be a "one-stop shopping" experience for all the forms and procedures you need. We are soon going to put the forms online so you can just fill them out and click "submit". Bookmark this URL:  
<http://www.sde.idaho.gov/Drivereducation/>

I'd like to remind all of you that your instructor card is your official approval to teach. This year we are laminating these so they are more durable and asking district coordinators and commercial school owners to ask to see them before allowing anyone to teach. They are one of the only ways you can be sure you are using licensed and current instructors. After the new year we still had more than twenty instructors who did not complete their renewal but were out there teaching! If a non-licensed instructor gets pulled over or gets in a wreck, you can imagine the fallout if it's discovered that they were not currently an approved Idaho Driver Education instructor. Please help us avoid this situation by renewing on time each year (your cards expire every year on December 31st) and keeping that card on you. And if you are an administrator of a program, please start asking to see your instructor's cards and make sure they have the current year on them!

With a new year comes new challenges and new goals. My personal goal is to stay healthy. I was diagnosed with West Nile Virus about the same time I switched from teaching to this admin. job last summer and six months later I still only have about 80% of my strength back. Then on Christmas Eve I was rushed to the hospital with a failing appendix. I had it removed on Christmas Day and my body has really struggled to regain what strength it had. Professionally, I look forward to spring workshops and bringing some refreshing ideas and tools to you and moving Idaho Driver Education into the 21st century.

## UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

### SDE Spring Workshop Schedule:

**Mark your calendar now to set aside time for this fun-filled, action-packed workshop!**

February 7-8 Boise A Ameritel Inn Town Square  
February 21-22 Boise B Ameritel Inn Boise Town Square  
February 25-26 Nampa Holiday Inn Express  
March 6-7 Twin Falls Best American Suites  
April 14-15 Lewiston Red Lion  
April 21-22 Idaho Falls Ameritel Inn  
May 7-8 Pocatello Ameritel Inn  
May 15-16 Couer d'Alene Ameritel Inn

**SEE PAGE 5  
FOR THE  
AGENDA!**

1. Must live at least 50 miles from the DE workshop closest to your home address. (i.e. if your schedule does not allow for time to attend the workshop closest to your home and you have to travel 50 miles or more to a workshop in another region of Idaho, you will be responsible for your travel and hotel costs)
2. Only **hotel rooms** will be provided. No substitutions for other arrangements will be made ( i.e. motor-home travel reimbursement, gas charges, etc.)
3. DE Department must receive notice **at least 4 weeks prior** to the starting date of the workshop to be attended that you need hotel accommodations.
4. No shows or cancellations occurring less than 48 hours in advance will result in the applicant being billed for any charges incurred.

**Register online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/drivereducation>**

**Or call us at 332-6850**

### 3rd Annual Eiguren Winter Workshop

January 12, 2008  
Eiguren Driving School  
3170 Overland Road, Boise ID

\$15  
Lunch provided  
9am—5pm

Provides eight (8) hours of approved  
professional development for public and  
commercial instructors.

RSVP before January 10th  
by calling 345-0670 or email  
[djeiguren@earthlink.net](mailto:djeiguren@earthlink.net)

### 2nd Annual Idaho Association of Professional Driving Businesses Work- shop

April 19, 2008  
For info. Call 939-7663

Provides eight (8) hours of approved  
professional development for public and  
commercial instructors.

## WORKSHOP AGENDA

### Day 1

**8:00-8:30 Pair up with a mentor/mentee**

**8:30-9:00 Model roadway fun/create scale signs**

**9:00-10:00 Changes, updates, Annual Report summary, etc.**

**Door Prize/Break**

**10:15-10:30 Distortion goggle activities**

**10:30-11:15 New (complete) curriculum CD's handed out and Rules of the Road DVDs**

**11:15-12:00 Using simulators to enhance student learning (Group A)**

**Door Prize/Lunch**

**1:00-1:30 "Drivers on Foot" activity**

**1:30-2:00 Final Exam Jeopardy Game**

**2:00-2:30 "Too Much Information" (Video, PPT, activity)**

**Door Prize/Break**

**2:45-3:30 GPS in Driver Education? (Scavenger hunt activity & discussion)**

### Day 2

**8:00-9:00 IDEAS interactive curriculum**

**9:00-9:45 Share favorite activities/lessons in small groups.**

**9:45-10:15 Local Driving Routes**

**Door Prize/Break**

**10:30-11:00 Rules of the Road "Dash Cards" game**

**11:00-12:00 Seat time on simulator (Group B)**

**Door Prize/Lunch**

**1:00-1:30 Blind spot parking lot activity**

**1:30-2:30 Round Table Discussion. What are our needs? What direction should we be going?**

**Door Prize/Break**

**2:30-3:30 Wrap up/sign up for credit/evaluation/survey**

## NOT JUST A PASSING FANCY

By Devin Rokyta, Daily News staff writer

Wednesday, October 17, 2007 - Page Updated at 12:00:00 AM

Hubert Hogaboam is in the business of teaching people how to drive.

He said just because a person can sit behind the wheel of a car and steer does not mean he or she knows how to drive.

"A lot of people think if you know how to steer a car down the road you must be a driver," Hogaboam said. "Because you have eaten all of your life does not make you a dietitian, so why do people think because they drive they know all about it?"

Hogaboam, who lives in Potlatch, has been teaching driver's education courses since 1972 and now operates his own driver's education company, Gem S.T.A.R. He has taught thousands of students - ranging from teenagers to people in their 90s - how to be better drivers.

"Just about everywhere I go in the U.S., I run into people I taught driver's ed to," Hogaboam said.

He has been run off roads and had near head-on collisions while teaching, but the years and many near-misses have been worth it.

"To me it's not a job and never has been. It's been an interesting experience - I have a lot of stories to tell," Hogaboam said. "It feels good to know somebody benefits from something they learned from me."

Hogaboam, who also taught fourth through sixth grade for 33 years in Potlatch, followed his father in teaching driver's safety.

"I had Mr. Hogaboam for driver's ed, so I just kind of continued the tradition," he said. "It's probably hereditary."

That may be the case, but Hogaboam now has as much experience as anyone in the state teaching driver's education courses. He's instructed students in 11 different school districts across the state and taught about 200 classes in Moscow alone.

"There is probably no one in the state that has done what I have done," he said. "I don't know how you make asphalt, but there is no one who has more background in driver's safety."

Hogaboam said during the past 30 years his students have changed little. He said they are more aggressive now than when he started. He attributes the aggressiveness to students imitating those who they have driven with their entire lives, which is a hard habit to break.

"People with no experience learn faster and tend to become better drivers than ones who are imitators," he said. "As a teacher, it is very difficult to teach people who think they know everything - those are the scariest."

Hogaboam is driven to make the roads safer for everyone. He said more than 5,000 teenagers die in car crashes (in the United States) each year - a number that is unacceptable to him.

"That seems to be acceptable to people, but losing them in Iraq is not," he said. "Maybe we are not arming our teenagers right."

Hogaboam takes it personally every time one of his former students or friends is killed in a car crash.

"If I lose one of my friends or students in a car wreck, that is too much," Hogaboam said.

That's why he puts 100 percent of his effort into teaching his classes and ensuring his students are armed with as much experience and knowledge as possible.

"It bothers me when I see people doing jobs with no real passion," he said. "Teaching young drivers or anyone how to drive is not a highly paid job, but it is valuable."

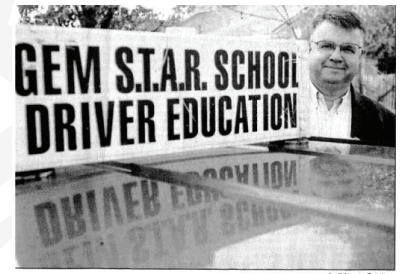
The passion still runs deep in Hogaboam, and he has no intentions of hanging up the keys in the foreseeable future. After all, he hasn't even hit middle-age yet - at least as far as he's concerned.

"I think middle-age begins at 60," he said. "I may work into my 70s."

Even as a teacher, he said he still has more to learn.

"I have probably learned more from my students than I did from my training," he said. "I learn all the time - teaching is a learning profession."

Devin Rokyta can be reached at (208) 882-5561, ext. 237, or by e-mail at [drokyta@dnews.com](mailto:drokyta@dnews.com).



## NEW MENTORING PROGRAM BEGINS IN 2008

Beginning with the January online certification course, through IDLA and NNU, new Driver Education instructors taking this course will be required to find and work with a mentor. This relationship is crucial to the new instructor's introduction and understanding of the profession.

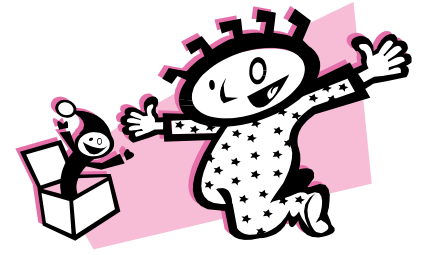
Because mentors will have to adjust their schedules and spend extra time helping their "mentees" out, mentors will receive \$100 from each mentee.

Because current law states that student teachers CANNOT do any in-car instruc-

tion, they will complete three in-car observations to watch and listen to how their mentor does things in the car.

Three classroom observations are required and then three classroom lessons must be taught—either independently or with the mentor.

We have neglected the expertise of our seasoned instructors too long. It is the goal of this mentoring program to partner new instructors with those with ten years or more of experience. Interested in being a mentor? Contact me and I'll place you



on the list.

Expanding the mentoring program is being considered as well; perhaps those with less than ten years experience could benefit from having a mentor too. What do you think?

~ Brian

*"We have neglected the expertise of our seasoned instructors too long."*

## ONLINE DRIVER EDUCATION TEACHER CERTIFICATION

You saw it coming, right? They put an ex-technology teacher and online instructor in place as the state coordinator and everything goes to \*&!#. Right?

Well, I see it as progress. And one exciting change is that we now are offering the Driver Education Certification Course **online** though IDLA and NNU! Individuals can now take the course from the convenience of their own home or wherever they have computer access.

The critics will ask how we can teach

someone to teach (especially Driver Ed.) online, but my answer is always that if one can earn a PhD online and run an entire school or university, we can certainly teach others how to emphasize zone control or the steps involved in a lane change—online. At times I think some folks in this field have taken the science-end of driving too far. This is not rocket science. It is traffic safety. It is teaching other to act and think responsibly when behind the wheel of a motorized vehicle.

What kind of interest has the online course seen? Almost *thirty* (30) individuals signed up for the first session that began January 1st. I don't think any of our traditional certification courses have seen those kind of numbers in the past—so the interest is high and in the spring we will have nearly thirty additional instructors looking for work.

Maybe now we can begin to fill those gaps that are out there where schools have no programs and students have no options for Driver Education!

## MYTHBUSTING DRIVER EDUCATION

Have you fallen for some of the common driving "myths"?

1. Premium gasoline makes your car run better. FALSE! You'd have to have a very expensive and high-performance vehicle to benefit from premium.
2. It is possible for loud car stereos, those at or above 1,000 watts, to cause lungs to collapse. TRUE!

3. A bullet fired into a gas tank causes it to explode. FALSE!
4. Pouring sugar into someone's gas tank will destroy their engine. FALSE! (Sugar does not dissolve in gasoline, so the fuel filter will catch it all.)
5. Downshifting before stopping saves your brakes. Possibly, but a

new clutch is more expensive than new brakes.

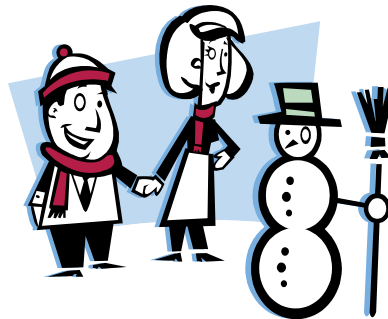
6. Driving at high speeds with windows down and AC off saves money. FALSE! It creates more wind resistance and costs more.
7. You should keep your gas tank at least half full. TRUE! (Moisture can build up in an empty tank.)





# *centerline*

**Have you seen this sign?**



# Happy New Year!

